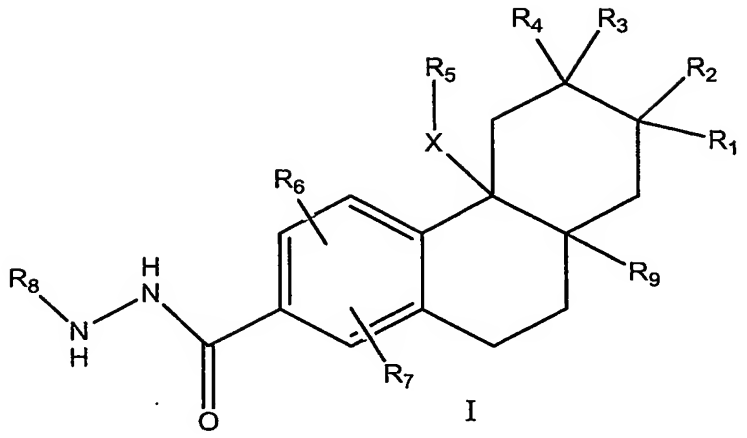
What is claimed is:

1. A compound of the formula I



I

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein R_1 is a) -H, b) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl-A-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, or -(C_1-C_3)alkyl-A-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-A-(C_0-C_3)alkyl, wherein A for each occurrence is independently S, O, N, OH or NH_2; wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R_x, c) -(C_2-C_{10})alkenyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R_x, d) -(C_2-C_{10})alkynyl, -ethynyl (C_1-C_8)alkoxy or -(C_1-C_4)alkoxy(C_1-C_4)alkylethynyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 0, 1 or 2 R_x, e) -CH=C=CH_2, f) -CN, g) -(C_3-C_9)cycloalkyl, h) -Z-(C_6-C_{10})aryl, i) -Z-het, j) -C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, k) -O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, l) -Z-S-R_{12}, m) -Z-S(O)-R_{12}, n) -Z-S(O)$_2$-R_{12}, o) -(C_1-C_8)alkyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 halo, p) -NR_{12}O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl or q) -CH_2OR_x;

Z for each occurrence is independently a) -(C_0-C_6)alkyl, b) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl or c) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl;,

R_x for each occurrence is independently a) -OH, b) -halo, c) -Z-(C_1-C_8)alkyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2, or 3 halo, d) -CN, e) -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, f) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, g) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkenyl, h) -(C_0-C_3)alkyl-(C_6-C_{10})aryl, i) -het or j) -N_3;

wherein het is a 5-,6- or 7-membered saturated, partially saturated or unsaturated ring containing from one to three heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur; and including any bicyclic

group in which any of the above heterocyclic rings is fused to a benzene ring or another heterocycle; and the nitrogen may be in the oxidized state giving the N-oxide form; and optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R_y;

R_y for each occurrence is independently a) -halo, b) -OH, c) -$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, d) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, e) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, f) -O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, g) -O$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, h) -O$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, i) -$(C_0$-$C_6)$alkyl-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, j) -C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, k) -Z-SO_2R_{12}, l)-Z-SOR_{12}, m) -Z-SR_{12}, n) -NR_{12}-SO_2R_{13}, o) -NR_{12}-C(O)-R_{13}, p) -NR_{12}-OR_{13}, q) -SO_2-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, r) -CN, s) -CF_3, t) -C(O)$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, u) =O, or v) -Z-SO_2-phenyl;

R_2, R_3 and R_4 are each independently a) -H, b) -halo, c) -OH, d) -$(C_1$-$C_{10})$alkyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R_x, e) -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, f) -Z-C(O)O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, g) -Z-C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$, h) $(C_1$-$C_6)$alkoxy, i) -Z-O-C(O)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, j) -Z-O-$(C_1$-$C_3)$alkyl-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, k) -Z-O-$(C_1$-$C_3)$alkyl-C(O)-O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, l) -O-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, m) -O-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, n) -O-Z-het, o) -COOH, p) -C(OH)$R_{12}R_{13}$ or q) -Z-CN;

R_{12} and R_{13} for each occurrence are each independently a) -H, b) -$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl wherein 1 or 2 carbon atoms, other than the connecting carbon atom, may optionally be replaced with 1 or 2 heteroatoms independently selected from S, O and N and wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo, c) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo or d) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl wherein 1 carbon atom, other than the connecting carbon atom and the ethynyl atoms, may optionally be replaced with 1 oxygen atom and wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo;

or R_{12} and R_{13} are taken together with N to which they are attached to form het;

X is a) absent, b) -CH_2-, c) -CH(OH)- or d) -C(O)-;

R_5 is a) -H, b) -Z-CF_3, c) -$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, d) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, e) -$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, f) -$(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl, g) -CHO, h) -CH=N-OR_{12}, i) -Z-C(O)OR_{12}, j) -Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, k) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-het, l) -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, m) -Z-NR_{12}het, n) -Z-het, o) -Z-O-het, p) -Z-$(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl, q) -Z-O-$(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl, r) -CHOH-$(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl or s) -C(O)-$(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl wherein said $(C_6$-$C_{10})$aryl is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 of the following: -Z-OH, -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -Z-NR_{12}-het, -C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -C(O)O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, -C(O)OH, -C(O)-het, -NR_{12}-C(O)-$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, -NR_{12}-C(O)-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkenyl, -NR_{12}-C(O)-$(C_2$-$C_6)$alkynyl, -NR_{12}-C(O)-Z-het, -CN, -Z-het, -O-$(C_1$-$C_3)$alkyl-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -O-$(C_1$-$C_3)$alkyl-C(O)O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl, -NR_{12}-Z-C(O)O$(C_1$-$C_6)$alkyl,

-N(Z-C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$, -NR_{12}-Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -Z-NR_{12}-SO_2-R_{13}, -NR_{12}-SO_2-het, -C(O)H, -Z-NR_{12}-Z-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, -Z-NR_{12}-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, -Z-NR_{12}-(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, -Z-N(Z-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl)$_2$, -SO_2R_{12}, -SOR_{12}, -SR_{12}, -$SO_2NR_{12}R_{13}$, -O-C(O)-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, -O-SO_2-(C_1-C_4)alkyl, -halo or -CF_3;

R_6 and R_9 are each independently a) -H, b) -halo, c) (C_1-C_6)alkyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, d) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl substituted with 0 to 3 halo, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo, f) -CN, g) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, h) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkenyl, i) -OH, j) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, k) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkenyl, l) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkynyl, m) -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, n) -C(O)OR_{12} or o) -C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$;

R_7 is a) –H, b) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, c) -(C_2-C_{10})alkenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, d) -(C_2-C_{10})alkynyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, e) -halo, f) -Z-CN, g) -OH, h) -Z-het, i) -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, j) -Z-C(O)-het, k) -Z-C(O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, l) -Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, m) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-CN, n) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-het, o) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-(C_6-C_{10})aryl, p) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, q) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, r) –(C_0-C_6)alkyl-C(O)OH, s) -Z-C(O)O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, t) -Z-O-(C_0-C_6)alkyl-het, u) -Z-O-(C_0-C_6)alkyl-(C_6-C_{10})aryl, v) -Z-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R_y, w) -Z-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-CH(O), x) -Z-O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl-NR_{12}-het, y) -Z-O-Z-het-Z-het, z) -Z-O-Z-het-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, a1) -Z-O-Z-het-C(O)-het, b1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-het, c1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-het-het, d1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, e1) -Z-O-Z-C(S)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, f1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, g1) -Z-O-Z-(C_1-C_3)alkyl-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, h1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, i1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-OH, j1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-O(C_1-C_6)alkyl, k1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-OH, l1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, m1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-het, n1) -Z-O-Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, o1) -Z-O-Z-C(=NR_{12})($NR_{12}R_{13}$), p1) -Z-O-Z-C(=NOR_{12})($NR_{12}R_{13}$), q1) -Z-NR_{12}-C(O)-O-Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, r1) -Z-S-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, s1) -Z-O-SO_2-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, t1) -Z-O-SO_2-(C_6-C_{10})aryl, u1) -Z-O-SO_2-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, v1) -Z-O-SO_2-CF_3, w1) -Z-NR_{12}C(O)OR_{13} or x1) -Z-NR_{12}C(O)R_{13};

R_8 is het.

2. The compound of claim 1, wherein het in all instances is a heteroaryl having five to seven members.

3. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_1 is a) -H, b) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R_x, c)

-(C_2-C_{10})alkenyl optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R_x, d) -(C_2-C_{10})alkynyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1 or 2 R_x, e) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, f) -Z-(C_6-C_{10})aryl, or g) -Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members;

wherein R_x for each occurrence is independently -OH, -halo, and -Z-CF_3;

wherein R_2 is a) -H, b) -halo, c) -OH, d) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl optionally substituted with -OH, e) -Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members, f) –COOH, g) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R_x.

4. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_3 and R_4 are each independently a) -H, b) -halo, c) -OH, d) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl optionally substituted with -OH, e) -Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members, f) –COOH, g) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 R_x;

wherein R_x for each occurrence is independently -OH, -halo, and -Z-CF_3.

5. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_5 is a) -H, b) -Z-CF_3, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, d) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl, f) -(C_6-C_{10})aryl, g) -CHO, h) -CH=N-OR_{12}, i) -Z-C(O)OR_{12}, j) -Z-C(O)-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, k) -Z-C(O)-NR_{12}-Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members, l) -Z-$NR_{12}R_{13}$, m) -Z-NR_{12}-heteroaryl having five to seven members, n) -Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members, o) -Z-O-heteroaryl having five to seven members.

6. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_6 and R_9 are each independently a) -H, b) -halo, c) (C_1-C_6)alkyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo, d) -(C_2-C_6)alkenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo, e) -(C_2-C_6)alkynyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo, f) -CN, g) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkyl, h) -(C_3-C_6)cycloalkenyl, i) -OH, j) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkyl, k) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkenyl, l) -O-(C_1-C_6)alkynyl, m) -$NR_{12}R_{13}$, n) -C(O)OR_{12} or o) -C(O)$NR_{12}R_{13}$.

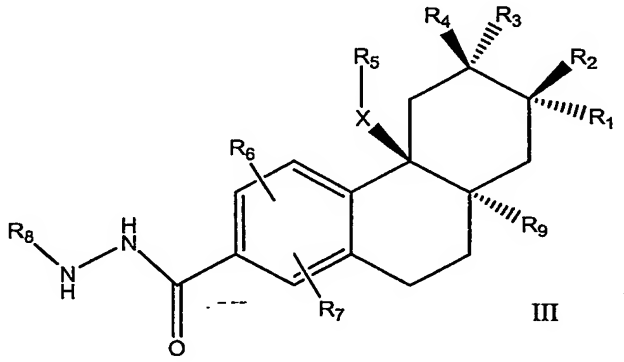
7. The compound of claim 1, wherein R_7 is a) –H, b) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, c) -(C_2-C_{10})alkenyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, d) -(C_2-C_{10})alkynyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3, e) -halo, f) -Z-CN, g) -OH, or h) -Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members.

8. The compound of claim 7, wherein R_8 is a 6-membered unsaturated ring.

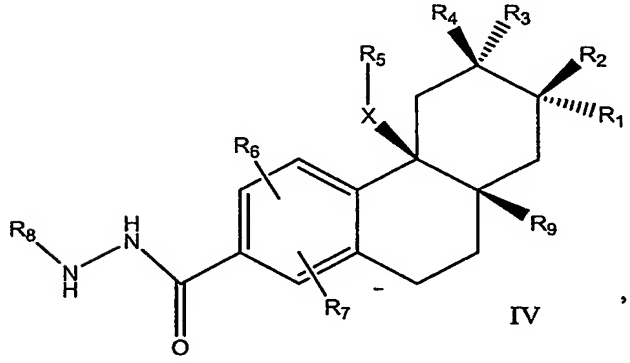
9. The compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of 4b-Ethyl-7-hydroxy-7-trifluoromethyl-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-phenanthrene-2-

carboxylic acid N'-pyridin-2-yl-hydrazide , 4b-Benzyl-7-hydroxy-7-trifluoromethyl-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-phenanthrene-2-carboxylic acid N'-pyridin-2-yl-hydrazide, 4b-Ethyl-6,7-dihydroxy-6-methyl-7-thiazol-2-yl-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-phenanthrene-2-carboxylic acid N'-pyridin-2-yl-hydrazide

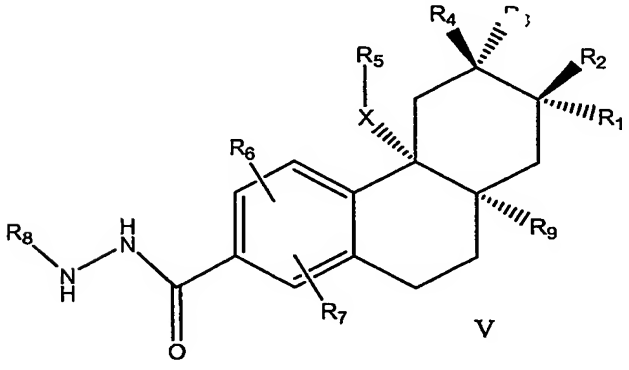
10. The compound of claim 8, having the formulas III, IV or V:



III ,



IV , or



V

an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug;

wherein R_1 is (C_1-C_{10})alkyl wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo or -Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members;

Z is (C_0-C_6)alkyl;

R_2, R_3 and R_4 are each independently a) -H, b) -halo, c) -OH, d) -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl, wherein each carbon atom is optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 -OH, -halo or -Z-CF_3; wherein R_1 is different from R_2 and R_3 is different from R_4;

X is a) absent, or b) -CH_2-;

R_5 is a) -H, b) -Z-CF_3, c) -(C_1-C_6)alkyl, d) -(C_6-C_{10})aryl or e) -Z-heteroaryl having five to seven members;

R_6 is a) -H, b) -halo, c) (C_1-C_6)alkyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 halo;

R_7 is -H or -(C_1-C_{10})alkyl optionally substituted with 1, 2 or 3 substituents independently selected from -halo, -OH and -N_3;

R_8 is a 6-membered unsaturated ring containing from one to three heteroatoms independently selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen and sulfur;

R_9 is hydrogen.

11. The compound of claim 10, wherein R_3 and R_4 are different; wherein said carbon atoms designated C*, independent of each other, has R- or S-configuration.

12. The compound of claim 11 selected from the group consisting of all the isomers of the following compounds: 4b-Ethyl-7-hydroxy-7-trifluoromethyl-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-phenanthrene-2-carboxylic acid N'-pyridin-2-yl-hydrazide , 4b-Benzyl-7-hydroxy-7-trifluoromethyl-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-phenanthrene-2-carboxylic acid N'-pyridin-2-yl-hydrazide, 4b-Ethyl-6,7-dihydroxy-6-methyl-7-thiazol-2-yl-4b,5,6,7,8,8a,9,10-octahydro-phenanthrene-2-carboxylic acid N'-pyridin-2-yl-hydrazide.

13. A pharmaceutical composition for treating a disorder selected from the group consisting of inflammatory disorders, endocrine disorders; collagen diseases; dermatologic diseases; allergic states; ophthalmic diseases; respiratory diseases; hematologic disorders; neoplastic diseases; edematous states; and gastrointestinal diseases in a mammal comprising (1) the compound of claims 1 or 10, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug and (2) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, diluent, excipient.

14. A method of treating obesity, diabetes, anxiety, or inflammatory diseases in a mammal comprising administering an effective amount of the

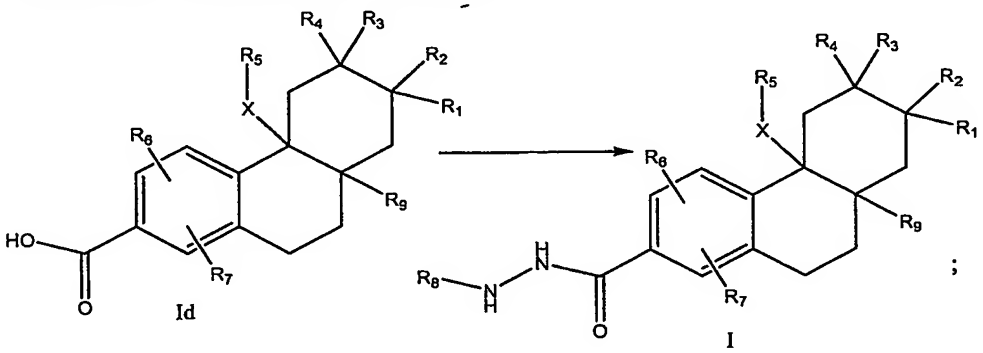
compound of claims 1 or 10, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug.

15. The method of claim 14, wherein said inflammatory disorders are selected from the group consisting of arthritis, asthma, rhinitis and immunomodulation.

16. A pharmaceutical composition comprising (1) the compound of claim 1, (2) a second pharmaceutically active compound, and (3) at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, vehicle, diluent, excipient.

17. The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16, wherein the second pharmaceutically active compound is selected from the group consisting of β_3 agonist, a thyromimetic agent, an eating behavior modifying agent, a NPY antagonist, an aldose reductase inhibitor, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor, a sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitor, insulin, troglitazone, sulfonylureas, glipazide, glyburide, chlorpropamide, a glucocorticoid receptor agonist, a cholinomimetic drug, an anti-Parkinson's drug, an antianxialytic drug, an antidepressant drug, or an antipsychotic drug.

18. A process of preparing compounds of formula I, an isomer thereof, a prodrug of said compound or isomer, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound, isomer or prodrug, comprising the step of coupling compound of formula Id with a hydrazine under amide forming conditions:



;

wherein R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4, R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8, R_9 and X are as defined in claim 1.